

West Grove United Methodist Church

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November 2019



"Those who give generously receive more, but those who are stingy with what is appropriate will grow needy."

Proverbs 11:24

Did you ever get a card from a loved one with money carefully tucked inside as a child? My Babcia was the best at sending out cards for every season with crisp bills tucked into the creases of the cards. Pumpkin cards for Halloween, Turkeys for Thanksgiving, Bunnies for Easter, Hearts for Valentines, Santas for Christmas, Candles for my Birthday, and sometimes a card, just because. It was so exciting to see her beautiful, loopy cursive handwriting on the outside of the envelope sitting in the mailbox. I would enjoy the cards, but I would really love the dollars!

I would probably spend it three or four different ways in my mind before I even got from the mailbox to the house. Then I would speculate another three to four different ways by the next morning. I can remember the first time I heard in Sunday School about biblical tithing - giving the first 10% to the church. That meant 10 cents out of every dollar Babcia gave me in the plastic white church building in Sunday School. It was awkward at first. My parents had to change \$5.00 bills into change. I had to remember to bring the coins with me to Sunday School class. Then, I had to remember to put them in the bank (and not just sit in my coat pocket - that happened a lot!).

When I began to give my card money and allowance, however, I noticed a joy settling in my spirit. It brought me delight to give. This did not limit me from buying books, caboodles, or soft pretzels or saving up for rollerblades. It did remind a lot about God.

Did you know that the Bible speaks about money and tithing twice as much as it speaks about faith and prayer combined? Throughout the witness of the Old Testament, prophets and biblical ancestors call the people of Israel to use their money in a way that reflects justice and cares for God's people. In the gospels, Jesus speaks through parables and teachings about how to spend and not spend your money. The letters are sprinkled with references to the monetary support that was essential to the support of the early church.

While generosity is a spiritual gift, giving is a spiritual discipline of every believer. Jesus knew that we are changed by how we give. Take the example of Zaccheaus. When Zaccheus, who was seeking out renewed faith, came to know Jesus, he gave half of his money to the poor and four times what he had cheated in the past. He was moved by Jesus' salvation and he spoke through the language of generosity (Luke 19:9).

Over and over again, this was the case. When John the Baptist was asked how you could tell someone had been changed and transformed (Luke 3: 7-14). He said it was in their actions. First, share your clothes and food with the poor. Second, if you are in a position of power to collect money like a tax collector, do it equitably. Lastly, to the soldiers, be content with what you have - do not seek to exhort more to satiate your wanton desires. With all three directives, spiritual change is manifest in the handling of money and possessions.

I invite you this Thanksgiving season to seek to generous as God is generous, abundantly generous.

- 1. Tithe, give the first 10% of what you have to God through the church.
- 2. Share your clothes and food with those in need.
- 3. Be equitable in your monetary transactions.
- 4. Be content with what you have as long as what you have fills the basic need.
- 5. And in the spirit of my Babcia, Surprise others kindness and generosity.

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica



November Worship at West Grove UMC

Please join us in our worship service to be blessed by the Word of God.



Services at 8:30 a.m. (Contemporary) and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional)

Seeking and Following God's Plan: Our Future With Hope



Sunday, November 3, 2019 Communion Sunday and Emergency Aid Stewardship Sunday IV All Saints Sunday

*Emergency Food Pantry Day is the first Sunday of each month

Sermon: Shine Your Light: Regular Testimonies

Scripture: Psalm 149,

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
The saints who have died and gone before us, shine a light into our lives, showing us how to live. When we share our testimonies, we highlight where God is moving.

Sunday, November 10, 2019 Consecration Sunday

Scripture: Gratifying Stewardship
Scripture: Malachi 3:10 (CEV) Matthew 28:16-20 (CEV)

Janice Bowers is preaching. She has been at seminary at Palmer Theological Seminary and reminds us that our discipleship and stewardship is gratifying.

Sunday, November 17, 2019 Memory Bells

Thanksgiving Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Sermon: Thanksgiving Chair Scripture: 1 Thessolonians 5: 18, Psalm 100 What if there was a reminder throughout your day to give thanks always? What would you give thanks for?

Sunday, November 24, 2019

United Methodist Student Day Sermon: Together We Do More

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 15-23, Psalm 95: 1-7 Listen for the voices of our college students as they share with us updates and share how God is moving. Together, we do more!

Sunday, November 24, 2019 6:30 p.m.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sermon: Give Thanks Always
Scripture: Psalm 100, 1 Thessoloians 5: 12-21
Join the churches of West Grove, Avondale,
Jennersville, and the surrounding areas, as we
gather to give thanks to God! Please bring a nonperishable food item for us to share with the Bridge
and our Food Pantry.



Jenner's Pond Residents:
Join us for worship is on November 10
at 11 am
in the Alison Theater.
Led by Pastor Jim.

Join us or tune in on the Closed Circuit TV at Jenner's Pond.



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on November 2nd at bed time! Daylight savings time begins Sunday, November 3rd.

Our Emergency Food Pantry serves our community and provides much needed food and supplies to families in our

area. Your donations are appreciated. **An**

Emergency Aid donation envelope can be found in your bulletin on First Sundays as well. The

funds collected help others in need with rent, utility bills, etc. Thank you for your generosity!

Our next collection is November 3.

NOVEMBER COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—Hosted by: Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Due to the increase in food allergies among the general population, as well as our own congregants, we request that any items brought for the fellowship hour have a note attached if there are nuts in them (including coconuts). Thank you.



Pastor's Desk

The Religious New Service (October 16, 2019) released a revenue, 35% saw a decrease and 17% said giving study: Religious attendance flat-lining, but giving remains strong. Lake Institute on Faith and Giving at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy finds that revenue is not necessarily correlated with attendance. In fact, the study finds that nearly half of America's estimated 380,000 congregations saw an increase in giving from three years ago.

The study, which included a representative sample of 1,231 congregations — including churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship found that 48% of congregations saw an increase in

remained the same. The median annual revenue for a religious congregation was \$169,000 in 2017. (The study was fielded in 2018 and consisted of a questionnaire completed by the congregational leader, or financial administrator.) The article on the study wonders if rental income, endowments and bequests, or increasing commitment from those present was the reason for the trend. Whatever the reason, a large number of faith organizations are encouraged to communicate well about stewardship.



As mentioned in Pastor Monica's sermon on October 20th, GCORR offers free, online Implicit Bias course

For those who know about the General Commission on Religion and Race's downloadable Implicit Bias Workbook (What We Don't Think We Think), the popular resource is now available as a free on-demand online course designed to be taken at a user's own pace. By taking an intentional look at implicit bias, learning what it is and the ways it works in our brains and in our actions, we can question perceptions and break down the barriers to reaching full inclusion, diversity, equity, and community. Pastors, teachers and anyone interested in learning and teaching others about implicit bias are invited to take this course. Enroll today.

Wanted pinecones, Sweet gum tree seed pods to be specific.

Pastor Monica is looking for 200 of these for an Advent project.

She is also looking for help with a project to be used in worship.





COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP AT WEST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, November 24th 6:30 p.m.

Join the churches of West Grove, Avondale, Jennersville, and the surrounding areas, as we gather to give

thanks to God! Please bring a non-perishable food item for us to share with the local food pantries. Join us for great music, time of fellowship and testimony, and a inspiring message for our community. Our own PraiseWorks band will offer music!

BOOKS & MOVIES MENTIONED IN SERMONS IN OCTOBER

October 6 - Pastor Monica

- (1) https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2006/apr/4-28-06GardenColumn.htm
- (2) Brueggemann, Walter. Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now. 2014.

October 20th

- (1) http://www.gcorr.org/implicit-bias-workbook/
- (2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VGbwNI6Ssk&feature=youtu.be



4

Open Grow Serve



- ⇒ Serve with Family Promise: Next dates are November 21-24 (Joan Leaman: jmleaman@comcast.net)
- ⇒ Give time with Food Pantry: Open 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. (Karen Hruz: khruz@hotmail.com)
- ⇒ Join in the Community Thanksgiving Service: Be a greeter or usher on Sunday, November 24 at 6:30 a.m.(Pastor Monica: pastor@westgroveumc.org)
- ⇒ Participate in the Annual Coat Drive: Begins November 3rd through December 1st. Help collect and deliver coats. (Janice Bowers: <u>janicesemail2@gmail.com</u>)
- ⇒ Join United Methodist Men (Pastor Jim: sjmundell@comcast.net)
- ⇒ Participate in a Bible study or Adult Sunday School Class (Pastor Monica: pastor@westgroveumc.org)
- ⇒ Open your heart and appetite to Just Us Ladies Interested Eating Together (Juliets) The next breakfast is on Saturday, November 9th (Margee Michaels: marjm44@comcast.net)
- ⇒ Come for an afternoon of fun at RAP (Retired Active Persons). Next gathering is on November 8th (Sara Ann Ramberger: <u>sar57ver@verizon.net</u>)
- ⇒ Come crochet or knit with the Knit Wits (Margaret Rubincan: margaretrubincan@gmail.com)
- ⇒ Share love with our littlest ones in the nursery (Amy Castaldi ahass17@hotmail.com)
- ⇒ Share God's love with a note of caring with college students, homebound, or those recovering from surgery (Pastor Monica <u>pastor@westgroveumc.org</u>)
- ⇒ Learn more about your church by attending the open, monthly Administrative Council Meetings. The next meeting is on Tuesday, November 19th. (Carol Whelan, Ad Council Chair <u>clwhelan1@verizon.net</u>)
- ⇒ Help out in the Kitchen on November 12th as folks join together to clean the kitchen in anticipation of our annual health inspection (Linda Shiplet: https://littlered2111@gmail.com)



The Hospitality Committee is still looking for a team to serve coffee and refreshments after the early morning Worship Service on the 4th

Sunday of every month. If you are interested please call: Caryl and Dick Stuhrke at (302) 239-1743.



Dear Missions Team, Thank you so much for the generous donation to the preschool program. Your generosity helps

The magazine of UNITED METHODIST MEN

Expand

ministry

to men

children in the community come to preschool to learn and grow.

The CMO and Preschool Staff



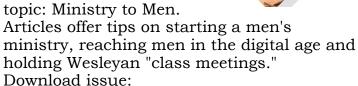
The UMW Rummage Sale in October was a huge success. The donations were many. We actually had to start early to make room for the tables! A huge thanks for everyone who helped during set up, sale days and clean up. The work is hard, but the fellowship is fun. We hope you'll think of us and join us again in May.

Thank you,

The United Methodist Women

Latest issue of UM Men available

The Fall 2019 issue of UM Men, the quarterly magazine of the Commission on United Methodist Men. focuses on what editor the Rev. Rich Peck calls "a no-brainer" topic: Ministry to Men.



http://www.gcumm.org/files/uploads/UMM en Fall2019

Book explores dementia care

Bishop Kenneth L. Carder has written a book about caring for dementia sufferers based on his tenure as a chaplain at a memory care center and personal experience as a caregiver. Ministry With the



Forgotten: Dementia Through a Spiritual Lens is published by Abingdon Press. Learn more. Read UM News story:

https://www.umnews.org/en/news/retiredbishop-serves-memory-care-unit-as-chaplain

Laity Fall Rally & **Assembly**

(formerly Laity Retreat)

Calling on the North, South East and West Districts. The

Conference Board of Laity invites one and all to come to the Laity Fall Rally and Assembly on Saturday, November 2, 10 AM to 2 PM. Location to be announced. Our theme: Having a 2020 Vision for Discipleship!



Each District Lay Leader is Attention United invited to bring a team of Lay Ministers and Christ Servants--Mothodist Laity Missioners, Worship Leaders, Youth Ministers, Prayer Warriors, Praise Teams, Musicians,

> Dancers, Crafters, Artisans, Culinary Teams, Members and Friends--to commune within the connection, putting on full display their work of kingdom building!



GROW



PRAYER MINISTRY MONTHLY GATHERING



The Prayer Ministry team meets the **second Tuesday** of every month for a time of sharing, praying and mutual care. We welcome you to join us at our next meeting on October 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary/prayer room.

Personal requests are kept confidential and may be placed in the prayer request box in the back of the sanctuary. If you're curious, but not sure, feel free to visit a couple times to see if this ministry is a good fit for you. No one is expected to pray audibly.

BIBLE STUDY



Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 PM, Bldg. #1

The Luther House Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesdays from 2:00-3:00 pm in Bldg. #1.

Everyone is invited to join us as we delve deeper into God's Word and share love and support for one another. **We are studying Isaiah.**

If you have any questions, please see Cindy Haley or call her at 484-702-7071. We hope you can join us!



Pastor Jim's class, the Book of Hebrews, continues on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. at the Alison Theater in Jenner's Pond. This

study is a lens that will focus our attention on Jesus Christ – who He is in His humanity and in His divinity. Come and join us as we look at these 13 chapters of Hebrews to help strengthen our faith. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 3rd 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Services



From the earliest days in the church, community has gathered to remember those who have gone onto the glory. On All Saints' Day, the church remembers those who have died in the previous year. This cherished tradition has been important in this congregation for many years.

We remember beloved members of the church, special loved ones of our families, and those for whom we have performed funeral and memorial services. Our remembrance includes pictures, the tolling of the bell, and the lighting of the candles.

You may be remembering a loved one this year. We would like to give thanks to God for their life in our All Saints Day service on November 3rd during both services. Please make sure that the office has the name of your loved one, a picture of your loved one, in addition to their date of birth and date of death, by October 30th. You may email pictures and information to the church office at office@westgroveumc.org.

It is our privilege to remember those who moved onto the church triumphant, even as we hold the tenderness of loss. .



Care Givers Support Group

Nov. 20th @ 6:30 p.m.

To all those, caring for loved ones; spouses, children, grandchildren, significant others, this is a safe

place to take time for yourself to voice (vent, if that is your need) those things you feel others do not understand.

We will laugh, we will cry, we will care for each other.

We will meet every third Wednesday of the month in room 4.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS Wednesday, November 13th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

As we approach the holiday season, you might find yourself wondering how this season will feel after the death of your loved one.



- Have you worried about how to do Christmas traditions without your loved one?
- Have you felt heavy hearted as thoughts about the expectations of the whole season without your loved one?



This might be the first holiday season after the death of your loved one, or the second, third or beyond.

You may notice some difficult emotions to navigate. Join "Surviving the

Holidays" to help. You will watch a video, be part of a discussion group, and receive a survival guide with encouragement and resources.

For questions, please contact Susan Paisley at 610.529.8699 / sbrintonpais1@verizon.net.



All Saints Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you.

Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals, weathered

wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses where your name was lifted and adored.

We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise: Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, strong hands and those gnarled with age, holy hands used as wave offerings across the land.

We thank you, God, for hardworking saints; Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted, head ragged or aproned, blue-collared or three-piece-suited. They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.

Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, God. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love.

Sunday, November 3rd 2:00 p.m.



Join us as we worship with the residents at Twin Pines Nursing Home.

Pastor Monica will be preaching and offering communion and the Memory Bells will be offering their music.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!



We will be holding on our

Charge Conference on Thursday, November 7th at 7:30 pm.

Please join us as we consider pastoral compensation, lay leadership, and Janice Bowers as a candidate

for ministry. We give thanks to God for this opportunity to gather as a congregation.

MISSIONS AND MINISTRY



CHRISTMAS GIFT TREE

Please visit our Christmas Gift Tree in the Lobby starting **Sunday, November 24th.**

On the tree, there will be gift tags for families and individuals from our community in need. The tag will note the child's gender, age and requested item. Some might just have the gender and age and you can pick out a surprise Christmas present! We will be providing gifts to children in the school district, residents at Twin Pines, and additional local families in need.

Wrapped gifts, with the gift tag attached, need to be **returned to the church by Tuesday, December 10th** to ensure they can be delivered in time.

Questions? Please contact Joan Leaman at jmleaman@comcast.net.

A malfunction in a freezer at 4 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13 sparked a fire at the Kennett Food Cupboard. The damage from fire, soot, and smoke forced Kennett Area Community Service, who runs the cupboard, to throw out half of their current inventory and close

their doors. Knowing that our sister organization serves so many families, we called and spoke with

COAT DRIVE

November 3-December 1

In support of our friends at Assumption BVM, we are collecting coats in support of the Avon Grove Christmas Basket Program. For the second year, we will supply the coats to bring a little Christmas spirit to your

neighbors in need. Please add your coats to the rack in the lobby through the beginning of December.

Questions? Please contact Janice Bowers at

janicesemail2@gmail.com



Food Cupboard Coordinator, Carol Vidal about the items most needed. We brought 222 pounds of cereal, beans, vegetables, and soups to the Kennett Food Cupboard later that week. We give thanks to God that on October 25th they began serving

participants. *In God's Love, Pastor Monica*



8.4% of our neighbors are Food insecure.

Maybe

you are one of them.

Our Food Pantry is now open the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4-6pm.

Sukkot Booth

We will be collecting food for our Sukkot Booth again this year. Our goal is to collect items that will allow us to fill Thanksgiving Baskets for our neighbors in need. Please add to the booth any of the following items:

- FREE Turkey coupons
- Boxed Stuffing
- Canned Yams
- Turkey Gravy
- Brown Sugar
- Mini Marshmallows
- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Green Beans
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- French's Crispy Fried Onions
- Instant Mashed Potatoes





A Very Luther House Christmas

The Missions Team is happy, once again this year, to support our neighbors at the Luther House in Jennersville with a bit of Christmas cheer and hospitality.

The Luther House has a mission to provide an environment that is based on compassion and offers a sense of belonging, regardless of financial situation. They are a senior community for people 62 and above.

Social and independent, Luther House residents are active in our community and enjoy time spent with others.

By providing gift bags of cookies, crafts, and sweet treats, it is our intention to show our neighbors that they are in our thoughts and prayers over the Christmas season.



Fifth Sunday
Coin Collection
Thank You!
We collected
\$213.50 for a Very
Luther House
Christmas. This will
help in completing
the supplies and
goodies for the bags.
With appreciation,

The Missions Team



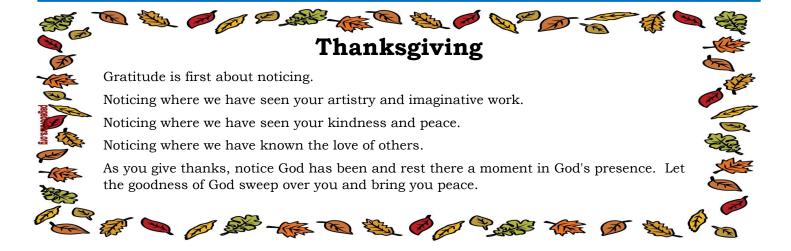
FAMILY PROMISE

November 21-24 Volunteers needed!

WGUMC is hosting Family Promise again in November, but only for 3 days. Our families always enjoy a comfortable and hospitable week when they stay with us. Please come help us and enjoy serving in this fulfilling ministry. We need volunteers for the following:

- **Set-up** and **break-down** of the guest, volunteer and family/dining Rooms,
- **Meal Preparation** at the church,
- **Evening hosting**-enjoying a meal and fellowship with the families,
- **Overnight hosting** spend the night at the church
- Food donations
- **Transporting cots**-on the final morning to Scott Steele's home for storage,
- Food donations

Look for sign-up sheets coming soon!



Prayer Bead Garden

The Prayer Bead Garden has two new trees! Come and enjoy the garden in this beautiful fall weather. It is a perfect place to pray and meditate.



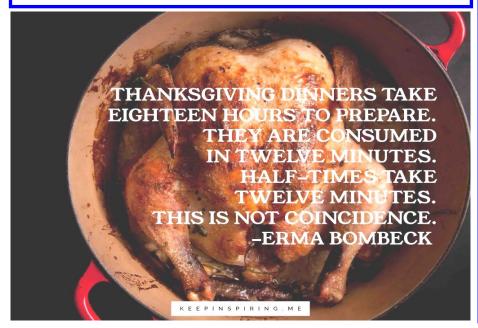






Methodist men arise! Specifically, arise on **Saturday**, **November 9th in time to make a 07:30 breakfast** and kick-off meeting for our men's group. We'll be convening at Perkins Pancake House on Route 41 in

Avondale for a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and organizational meeting. As Christians we're assured that wherever two or three are gathered together in His name, that He will be there also. Wouldn't want to miss that, would you?



Interested in becoming a Certified Lay Minister?



Register now for an Orientation

/Admission Session for the Certified Lay Ministry Class of 2020, which begins in April 2020. All prospective candidates must attend one of the

Orientation/Admission sessions, held from September to December at locations in the four districts of the conference of the Conference Office in Valley Forge.

Conference Office in Valley Forge. To register see the

Orientation/Admission sessions schedule, and contact Judy Ehninger, CLM Program Coordinator at, 610-442-3140 or by e-mail at

judy.ehninger@gmail.com. Learn more about Certified Lay Ministers on the

ChristServantMinistries.net website. See the program dates and information.

YOUTH MINISTRY



For information on all children and youth activities, contact Melanie Hartley childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org



November 3, 10, 17: Youth group, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

November 24: Community

Thanksgiving service, No Youth Group

December 1: Movie Night! Details to come.

Dodgeball!

Youth Dodgeball Night Friday, November 8 7:00-9:00 p.m.



Bring your friends!!! And \$3.00 for pizza!

Save the date and get ready....

SPRING RETREAT 2020

IS COMING SOON!

March 6-8, 2020 Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center

Cost: \$120

Payment 1: \$60 due Nov. 24 Payment 2: \$60 due Mar. 1

Contact Melanie to register, questions & for information childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

610-869-9334

Mission Trip 2020 June 14-20

Boston, Massachusetts

Summer will be here before you know it, and our summer mission trip will be heading to Boston!

Any students entering grade 8 through graduating seniors are invited to join! For inormation about the trip, including cost and important dates is available- contact Melanie Hartley.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



All Worship Sunday

November 3: 8:30 & 11:00 Services

Children are invited to participate in

worship on communion Sunday, so that all can partake at the Lord's table together.

We provide worship packets and hands on toys to keep our kids engaged and teach them about worship.

What's happening on **Sundays:**

For information or questions , contact Melanie Hartley at

childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org



Kid Sing

Our children's choir did a wonderful job singing "I Wanna Be Like Jesus" on Sunday, October 13! We are so thankful for our children who use their gifts and energy to engage our congregation in worship.

Children & Youth Sunday School Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.



WoRM Unit: Jacob & Esau October 27 - November 24

Our second unit of the program year is all about Jacob and his brother Esau. We will learn all about their relationship as brothers, the varied accounts of Jacob's life, and how the two brothers became reconciled to one another. Art, games, stories and lots of learning to come!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Thank you to all who have spent time on Sunday mornings volunteering in the nursery!

We continue to be blessed with wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow! We are in need of additional volunteers, especially during the 8:30 am service.

If you are interested in helping in the nursery (about once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi at ahass 17@hotmail.com or 610-468-4321.

CNO PRESCHOOL



What a fun time of the preschool year! The children have been busy

learning all about Fall. Our field trips to Millburn Orchard started us on that journey. While on our field trips, we were able to learn about how apples grow and get packed for the grocery stores. We also enjoyed a bumpy hayride and loved meeting some of the fun animals. We came home with an apple and a pumpkin and many of us

even had the yummy apple cider donuts. Our field trips were just the start of our learning in October. We continued our Fall theme by learning more about apples, acorns, and squirrels. The end of the month included lots of Halloween fun and



even a few treats. We paraded for our families in our Fall colors

or costumes and had a special treat at the end

of the day. We are about kindness and things we are

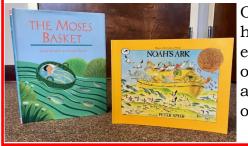


looking forward to learning talking about all of the grateful for in November.

Tracy McLaughlin,
Director

CMO CHAPEL TIME with Melanie Hartley and Pastor Monica

On September 25th Pastor Monica and Melanie kicked off chapel time with our preschool friends!



God Loves Me

Over the past several weeks the children have heard stories about how we experience God's love and hearing some

of the foundational stories of the Old Testament, like Noah's Ark and the story of baby Moses. The kids have also loved singing one of our favorites, "My God is So Big".



FUN & FITNESS





Retired Active People (R.A.P.)

November 8 12:00-3:00 PM

RAP enjoyed a fun afternoon on Friday, October 11. Thank you Ray McKay for the light-hearted program, Silly and Archaic Laws Still on the Books. We also thank Sara Ann Ramberger and Paulette Bryan for coleading our afternoon.

Our next gathering will be held Friday, November 8 at **12:00 noon**. Dick and Caryl Stuhrke are our leaders for the day. We are delighted to have Pastor Jim and Betty Mundell share pictures and events from their recent world cruise.



Join us for an afternoon of good friends, great fellowship, lunch and an interesting program. Everyone is welcome! Bring your lunch and a friend or two! Desserts and drinks are provided.

We will continue with members co-leading each monthly gathering. We are still in need of leaders for our March 2020 meeting. If you are interested, please let Sara Ann Ramberger at 610-869-3863 or sar57ver@verizon.net know of your interest.

J.U.L.I.E.T. Save the Date!

The Juliets, a group of women who just like eating together, will meet at



the Creekside Diner, 717 W. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square on **Saturday, November 9th** at 9:00 a.m. They meet monthly on the 2nd Saturday and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship and laughter! Join us!



United Methodist Men

Join the United Methodist Men on November 11th at Parkesburg UMC for Children's Night! 6:45-8:30 pm

See Dick Price and Pastor Jim for more information



UMW FAITH CIRCLE

After ten years, FAITH CIRCLE is closing the sewing closet. When we began, our mission was to serve local/regional needs. Therefore, over the years, Faith

Circle's projects have been directed/given to specific groups or for specific needs - INCLUDING: the women's shelter in Elkton; family shelter near Chesapeake City; lap pads (50) for the denomination; costumes for the Live Nativity; quilts for our homeless friends (identified through Donna Fackler); and quilts and pillowcases for Family Promise. Thank you ladies of Faith Circle



Annual Christmas Music Celebration Sunday, December 8th ~ 6:30 p.m.

Christmas brings out the best music in all of us!
Bring your family and invite your friends!
Our family-friendly time of 6:30 p.m.
allows **all ages** to join in the festivities.

Welcome the Advent Season with music by the Chancel Choir, Memory Bells Handbell Choir, PraiseWorks Band, special musical numbers by our talented friends and, of course, a carol sing-along.

Stay after for delicious, homemade Christmas cookies and cider!

Invite your friends and family to get in the Christmas spirit!





STEWARDSHIP



WEST GROVE UMC FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our church financial condition has continued to improve through the nine months ended September 30, 2019. For the month of September, we received income of \$40,628 and incurred \$21,603 of expenses resulting in an excess of cash received over expenses in the amount of \$19,025. This was primarily due to a combination of a strong five week



September offering, a significant \$8,000 donation by CMO (Children's Morning Out program), and lower overall spending.

For the year-to-date nine month period ended September 30, 2019, we received total income of \$302,798 and incurred total expenses of \$280,505 resulting in an excess of cash received over expenses in the amount of \$22,293. Although our 2019 apportionments are \$22,506 in arrears, we are conducting our quarterly review later this month with the expectation of making a meaningful payment toward that arrearage.

Marc Simmons, Chair of the Finance Committee



Seeking and Following God's Plan: Our Future with Hope

Join us for our Consecration Brunch on Sunday, November 10th after each service.

From Sunday, September 13 through Sunday, November 10, West Grove United Methodist Church is celebrating its annual financial stewardship campaign, "Seeking and Following God's Plan: Our Future With Hope". The campaign will culminate on Sunday, November 10th with a Celebration Brunch after each worship service. This brunch will allow us to celebrate God's faithfulness to us, engage in fellowship with one another, and share in the bounty that God provides. The brunch is free. We look forward to seeing you in worship as we celebrate God's faithfulness to us and our journey toward fruitful living in Christ!



Our opportunity list gives you a chance to give beyond your regular tithe. Consider how you might impact our congregation and community.

Item	Qty	Approx Cost
Monitors- Sanctuary (80") (Dream in Process!)	2	\$4,000
Commercial Grade Shredder (FULFILLED)	1	\$ 300
Electronic Sign at the street	2	\$15,000
Electronic Sign at Rt. 1	1	\$50,000
Carpet in Room 14	1	\$500
Concrete Walkway from Pastor's Office Door to Parking Lot	1	\$7,000

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PLEASE NOTE

The Church office will be closed on November 28 and 29 as we celebrate Thanksgiving with our families.

When shopping for the upcoming holiday season, don't forget to use AMAZON SMILE.



You go to your same

login except choose Amazon Smile and support West Grove United Methodist Church. You still get the same deals, but a percentage of your spending is donated by Amazon to your designated non-profit! So, don't forget to log in to SMILE before you shop!!



HEARING ASSISTIVE DEVICES

We want you to HEAR the word of God when you come to church to hear the word of God.

Hearing assistive devices are located in the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you.

We give thanks to God the technology we have in the sanctuary that can help **everyone** hear.









and Products

Order gift cards for over 750 of the most popular brands, from groceries to coffee to

Best Selection of

Retailer Brands



LANDS'END







entertainment to gas.

Over 300 brands are available immediately with our eGift card products, and over 100

are reloadable.

LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Our Facebook page is a great resource for keeping up-to-date on what is going on here at church. Be sure to "Like Us" on Facebook and check-in" when you are here!



PRAYER ROOM

Need prayer?

Our prayer room is open each Sunday after worship for anyone seeking prayer.

SCRIP SCRIPTS

Many of us purchase gift cards to use as gifts not just during the holidays, but year round!

Shop With Scrip is an easy way to patronize your favorite merchants <u>and</u> raise money for WGUMC.

For every dollar you spend, merchants will rebate WGUMC from 1% to 20% (and sometimes even more during special promotions). Order forms are in the Narthex. Simply place your order form and a check made payable to WGUMC in Gene Aucott's mailbox in the mailroom. Contact Gene to get on his reminder email list!

Questions? Contact Gene Aucott gene.aucott@comcast.net / 610-869-7355.

THANK YOU

Ronald McDonald House



We give thanks to God for all those who served on Sunday, October 6th at the Ronald McDonald House, by AI Dupont Hospital.

Thank you to Nancy Duvall for coordinating the meal! I had the opportunity to be in conversation with the family of Samuel, who is 4, just like Peter. Samuel likes catching bugs and is learning his letters - he is up to the letter I, as in ice cream, he told me. Samuel, his little sister Grace, and tenacious

parents Allison and Jeff enjoyed dinner and a break from the hospital. Samuel is

headed back home to Connecticut today after surgery to readjust rods that had migrated to support his bones. He was born with Osteogenesis Imperfecta. Their hope was infectious as we talked about 4 year olds, catching bugs, and hope that is enough for today. More about his story is on Facebook or Instagram under Strength for Samuel. Thank God for each of you who offered sustenance and hope on Sunday evening.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica





We give thanks to God for the \$8,000

donation from our preschool, CMO (Children's Morning Out)

at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. At the end of each school year, the preschool reviews the fiscal year and makes a donation to the church. CMO creates a welcoming and learning place for children in our church and community. Together, we are in mission and ministry as we open, grow, and serve!

In God's Love, Pastor Monica



A Big Thank You!

8.4% of Chester County is food insecure.

Many of those people are here in our neighborhood.

On October 4th, our Community partners, Berkshire Hathaway,

reached into the community and collected food. We give thanks to God for their collaboration and community service.



SOUTH DISTRICT NEWS

In the beginning of October, our congregation was a part of a new venture for charge conferences. Our district held four charge conferences for the entire district (104 churches). We signed up for the conference with Rev. Junuis Dodson, General Secretary of the General Board of Discipleship, presenting on intentional discipleship

found here:



structures. Pastor Monica invited various members of ministries to join her and Pastor Jim at what promised to be a riveting presentation. Melanie Hartley was present. His hour long presentation included an overview and contextual recommendations for beginning paradigm shifts in the local congregation towards Jesus centered and missional focused discipleship. The resources can be

https://www.seeallthepeople.org/resources-downloads/. They are free resources courtesy of our apportionment dollars.

Additionally, at the charge conference, we learned from District Superintendent, Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm that the church is in exile. As a people in exile, we heard the word of encouragement from Jeremiah to "Build. Plant. Grow." from Jeremiah 29:5. She shared with us that we can not remain in our churches and hope that people find our churches. We must be in our communities engaging new models of discipleship and sharing the faith. In our district, Rev. Taylor-Storm highlighted the Garden Church, who was demolished in ordered to make room for Simpson Gardens II, with a chapel inside, Hope Point Campus, where Trainer UMC, sold their building for \$1 to St. Dainel's UMC in Chester and moved in with Trinity UMC, the chartering of NorthStar UMC in Reading, a new church start, Calvary Community Center, where Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faith communities share a building, and Cokesbury Reading program, in Marcus Hook who blesses the school district by working with them to raise the standard of reading. All of these churches of various sizes are engaging their communities.

The General church is in a time of transition and new models are engaging. Some of these models are renewed. Clergy have been circuit riders as far back as John Wesley. Clergy are becoming parts of churches on wheels. The conference is helping to facilitate mergers with other denominations including AME, Presbyterian, and UCC. There is an increase of lay pastors and video projection in worship for

sermons from one location to another. We are sharing the word of God with all people!

Additionally with the 2020 General Conference in May, there is legislation upcoming. Significant pension legislation is on the table from Wespath. This is the most significant change to the pension plan since 1982. This is eliminate defined benefit for incoming clergy

and move all future plans to defined contribution. There are nine plans submitted related to a way forward for the denomination in the form of thousands of petitions. These plans vary from dissolution of the church to division to continued unity. They are all currently in translation, as we are a global church. We have four official languages: English, French, Portuguese, and Swahli. This link has seven of the nine. The others will available when translated. https://ostfne.org/resources/pp-gc2020/

Our General Church is considering a reduction of bishops to our jurisdiction. Our jurisdiction currently has 9 active bishops. For example, one plan reduces the funding from the General Church to 5 bishops with additional funding and/or decisions to the jurisdictional level. Our Bishop, Bishop Peggy Johnson has lead us for 12 years. This is the maximum, according to the current 2019 Book of Discipline. We will likely be saying farewell to Bishop Johnson in August 2020. However, one of the plans regarding the future of the church requires bishops remain during a time of transition.

Pastor Monica will be holding a teaching session on the legislation ahead of the listening sessions.

Teaching Session:

Sunday February 23rd at 9:45 am and 12:15 pm Listening Sessions:

Wednesday, March 25, 2020 - 7 pm to 8:30 pm Church of the Good Shepherd, 1500, Quentin Rd., Lebanon PA

Thursday, April 2, 2020 – 7 pm – 8:30 pm Downingtown UMC751 East Lancaster Ave, Downingtown, PA. This event will be streamed and accessible by ZOOM

Saturday, April 4, 2020 – 10 am to noon Simpson House, 2101 Belmont Ave.,

Philadelphia, PA

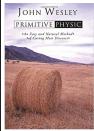
Monday, April 20, 2020 - 7 pm to 8:30 pm Wesley UMC, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem PA

'Do No Harm, Do Good'

By Bishop Peggy Johnson

As The United Methodist Church prepares for General My great-grand-father used to beat my grandmother Conference 2020, numerous legislative petitions flooded in by last week's deadline for consideration. Certainly, we should always have as the backdrop of our discussions and deliberations the General Rules of John Wesley: "Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.'

If we would be influenced by these basic three rules in everything we debate and vote on at General Conference—and even more so, in everything we do or say daily as Christians navigating our way through this complicated world—what a better world this would be!



Wesley was a man of many interests, and medicine and health was one of his priorities. "Do No Harm" is reminiscent of the ancient Hippocratic Oath that has for centuries guided the medical profession. One of the lines in the oath states, "I will abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm, especially from abusing the bodies of man or woman, bond or free."

Sounds like "Do no harm" to me; and indeed, Wesley advocated for the things that make for healthy bodies and minds. He knew it was part of our spiritual responsibility as Christians. He even wrote a home remedy book titled "The Primitive Physic" to aid in the healing of many common ailments.

So it would behoove us as United Methodists to live by this important law as we consider addictive substances and their place in society. The practice of vaping is front and center in the news now, as serious, cases of lung disorders are happening across the country and leading to increasing, tragic deaths.

Publicity is growing with bans on the sale of all vaping products by mega-store chain Walmart and the state of Massachusetts. as others consider



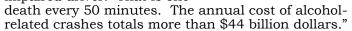
doing likewise. Lawmakers are studying advertisements and the offering of various flavors of vaping products because of their strong attraction to young people.

People are up in arms about vaping, it seems, and rightly so. Even though it is credited with helping some turn away from addictively smoking tobacco products, it is nonetheless killing people. We may possibly see this young industry put out of business altogether as the pressure against it seems to be

So why are we not as concerned about the prevailing and pernicious legal drugs of tobacco and alcohol? The detrimental and horrific effects of these products have long been proven.

I don't know a person who has not been affected by the tragedy of these two addictions in their families. with a buggy whip because of his alcohol addiction. My best friend lost her father to lung cancer from years of smoking.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every day "29 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcoholimpaired driver. That is one



Think what we could do with \$44 billion dollars? What a waste! What injustice, especially when you consider that many of the dead people were innocent victims of drivers under the influence.

According to the American Lung Association, an estimated 154,050 Americans died from lung cancer in 2018. Most of this was smoking-related. Why are we so pumped up about vaping while the legal stuff is killing people at epidemic rates?

The answer is simple: alcohol and tobacco are multibillion-dollar industries with profits and lobbying efforts that speak loudly in our consumer-driven world of greed and gain.

What does The United Methodist Church say? According to our Social Principles:

"We affirm our long-standing support of abstinence from alcohol as a faithful witness to God's liberating and redeeming love for persons. (Par. 162.L) "In light of the overwhelming evidence that tobacco smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco are hazardous to the health of persons of all ages, we recommend total abstinence from the use of tobacco." (Par. 162.M)

So, yes, do no harm. Join the bandwagon of people who are speaking up against vaping. But don't stop there! The elephant in the room is the huge, high-profit industries in this country that are profiting from rampant addictions that lead to suffering, sorrow and death.

What a world we would have if personal pain and trauma issues were handled in spiritual and therapeutic ways, rather than masking and exacerbating them with addictive substances!

How can you, your family and church, your voices together be used to speak out against this massive harm? Silence is complicity. Lead by expression—your words—and by example - your active witness. Your voice can make a difference.

Republished from The Bishop's Blog.





how SCCON starts the conversation

Southern Chester County Opportunity Network's work is based on the Bridges Out of Poverty model — a framework for understanding poverty that brings professionals and communities together to work on solutions.

Did you know SCCON meets here at West Grove and was responsible for increasing the routes of Scoot to Oxford with more coming to Kennett Square?

Article draws from interview By Krystine Sipple in Generocity

I am currently serving as the executive director of a small social service nonprofit in Southern Chester County. Recently, I participated in a Bridges out of Poverty training with members of my staff and my board. Following the workshop, I spoke with the presenter, Kate Uhler, about her experiences. Uhler is the executive director of the Constellation Network, an organization founded to support leaders and strengthen networks for the common good in Southern members from all different backgrounds. These three Chester County.

One of the projects she works with is the Southern Chester County Opportunity Network (SCCON), a community-wide initiative made up of a growing group of people who want to see poverty addressed in comprehensive, collaborative ways in the community. SCCON's work is based on the Bridges Out of Poverty model — a framework for understanding poverty through the lens of economic class and addressing it in a comprehensive way. It asks all sectors of the community — business, nonprofit, education, local governments, etc. — to come to the table and engages those in poverty as problem solvers.

"The magic of this process," Uhler offered, "is in getting everyone speaking the same language. Poverty can be hard to talk about, especially for those experiencing it. The Bridges framework allows for people with different political and economic backgrounds to converse more easily about the issues and to find solutions together. It's hard to negate Individual someone's experience when you have a direct relationship with

Creating those relationships is one of the main goals of SCCON, and the Bridges training is just one of three interrelated programs that work towards that goal. The second program is Getting Ahead.

them."

"Bridges is typically for people with no direct experience of poverty," Uhler said. "The

'Poverty can be hard to talk about.' This is Getting Ahead program is for people who are currently experiencing poverty in their lives. The typical group is about 10-12 people who are stable enough in their lives that they are able to attend a 3-hour class once a week for 16 weeks. Participants in the Getting Ahead groups focus on building relationships, resources, and hope for the future. The groups also change how people see themselves. They feel less helpless, more empowered, and they now have a seat at the table to be part of addressing an issue larger than themselves."

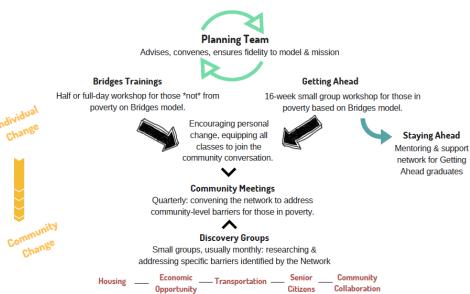
> All of this comes together when those who have graduated from Getting Ahead and those who are committed to supporting them meet to discuss the barriers and opportunities to moving out of poverty in our community.

> Three different Discovery Groups have been formed to address the issues Getting Ahead graduates have identified as crucial to breaking the cycle of poverty in our area, and the graduates are encouraged to participate in those groups, as are other community groups focus on Transportation, Housing, and Community Collaboration. The work of the Discovery Groups is shared in quarterly community meetings which take place in January, April, July, and October.

"Having people from all aspects of the community in one room, all addressing the same issues, helps people to realize that we all have a role to play in making things better," Uhler said.

SCCON's Community Meetings are open to everyone and are held on the third Tuesday each quarter from 6 -7:30 p.m. The next community meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 21st from 6-7:30 p.m. at West Grove United Methodist Church.

In God's Love. Pastor Monica





2020 Faith-Sharing Event, April 25 Evangelism in a Changing Landscape

Plan now to attend the Eastern PA Conference's next Faith-Sharing Event on **Saturday, April 25, 2020.** The Rev. Lisa Greenwood, of Dallas, Texas, will be our featured presenter. She is Vice-President for Leadership Ministry of TMF (the Texas Methodist Foundation), and she will explore the theme "Evangelism in a Changing Landscape."

This one-day event will stimulate reflections on the changing landscape of our mission field—both its challenges and opportunities—and invite us into conversations about the implications for our church leaders and ministries. Congregations are encouraged to send teams to learn, strategize and prepare to grow together.

At TMF, Greenwood works with leaders in various settings to explore and foster "deep change in the church by facilitating conversations of courage,

learning and innovation." She speaks, consults and facilitates conversations among denominational and congregational leaders for the sake of creating a culture of purpose, generosity and courage in the church.

For our Faith-Sharing Event, she asks these questions:

Ever feel like we have inherited models for ministry that just aren't working? Has evangelism taken on the qualities of an unwanted virus (thus, to be avoided like the plague!)? And yet, we know that we are compelled to share Christ's good news of love and grace, justice and hope. What does that call mean for us as leaders and for the churches we serve?

With psychology and Master of Divinity degrees, Lisa was ordained in 1992 and successfully served for 20 years in suburban, urban and rural churches in the North Texas Annual Conference. She served her conference on its Board of Ordained Ministry, Order of Elders and four General Conference delegations (2004-2019). Lisa was also a ministry strategist for the Horizons Stewardship Company. She and her husband have seven children.

United Methodist Student Day

We are thankful for our young people, those who are at college and those who are working. Thank you to our prayer partners who pray for our college students! And all of those who love on our young people! We love you!

On Sunday, November 24th, we will be celebrating United Methodist Student Day. We will be hearing from some of our students and working young folks as they share where they have seen Jesus, what needs



they see, and where they find hope. Pastor Monica has reached out to many of our college students and young people, if you have not heard from her - please reach out to her! She wants as many video clips as possible to hear from our students and young people!

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
Daylight					Hebrews Bible	Daily Reflections
Savings					Study at Jenner's Pond	Group
Time						
Begins						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Annual Coat Drive Begins All Worship Sunday All Saints Sunday Worship at Twin Pines Disciple Bible Class	Knit Wits SOS Ladies Tech Team Meeting	Trustees Meeting	Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting Disciple Bible Class	Finance Meeting Charge Confer- ence Meeting Ad Council Meet- ing	Hebrews Bible Study at Jenner's Pond R.A.P. Youth Dodgeball	J.U.L.I.E.T.S Daily Reflections Group
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Consecration Sunday with Brunch Worship at Jenner's Pond Disciple Bible	Knit Wits Making Sense of the Bible Class SOS Ladies Full Staff Meeting	Prayer Gathering Missions Meeting	Full Monthly Staff Meeting Disciple Bible Class Surviving the Holidays	Food Pantry is open 4-6 pm	Hebrews Bible Study at Jenner's Pond	Daily Reflections Group
Class	UMM @ Parkesburg UMC		,			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Coffee Fellowship	Knit Wits	Finance Meeting	Family Promise	Family Promise	Family Promise	Family Promise
Memory Bells Disciple Bible Class	Making Sense of the Bible Class SOS Ladies	Ad Council Meeting	Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting Disciple Bible Class Caregivers Group	Food Pantry is open -4-6 pm	Hebrews Bible Study at Jenner's Pond	Daily Reflections Group
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Family Promise Thanksgiving Service Community Thanksgiving Service Disciple Bible Class	Knit Wits Making Sense of the Bible Class SOS Ladies	Missions Meeting	Disciple Bible Class	Church Office Closed Family Promise	Church Office Closed	Daily Reflections Group



300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390 Phone: 610-869-9334, Fax: 610-869-0110 E:mail address: office@westgroveumc.org Website: www.westgroveumc.org



2019

~ Open, Grow, Serve ~

At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor

pastor@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Staff

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor, Chaplain at Jenner's Pond <u>Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org</u>

Melanie Hartley—Youth & Children's Ministry Director Childyouthdirector@westgoveumc.org

Donna Fackler - Church Administrator Office@westgroveumc.org

Ali Wills- Sexton sexton@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director Contemporary Music Interim Director Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director davsan5@comcast.net

Tracy McLaughlin—Children's Morning Out Director <u>Tracy.mclaughlin@westgroveumc.org</u>

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Christ Servant Ministers

Janice Bowers, <u>janicesemail2@gmail.com</u> Cindy Haley, <u>chaley@zoominternet.net</u> Karen Hruz, <u>khruz@hotmail.com</u>
Peter Mullen, <u>psmullen@petermullen.com</u>

Board and Committee Leadership

Carol Whelan - Administrative Council Chair Gene Aucott - Trustee Chair Marc Simmons - Finance Chair Scott Steele - Treasurer Janice Bowers - Financial Secretary Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Interim Chair Steve May—Tech Team Leader Dick Stuhrke—Scouting Coordinator Melanie Hartley - Christian Education Joan Leaman - Children's Ministry Team Contact Susan Paisley, RN - Faith Community Nurse Janice Bowers - Missions Team Chair Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair Susan Paisley & Janice Bowers -Delegates to Annual Conference Pastor Monica - Committee on Lay Leadership Open-Lay Leader OPEN - U.M.W. President Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator Karen Hruz—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator Betty Mundell –Ad Council Member at Large

Carol Whelan—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator

Janice Bowers - Emergency Assistance Team Chair